

Message Text

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15
ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5524

INFO NAC COLLECTIVE 047

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KS, KN, IS

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: DELEGATION VIEWS ON STATUS OF NAC ISSU
ES,

MORNING AUGUST 17

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED STATUS OF NAC WITH MINISTER OF STATE IBRAHIM
(JORDON), KABBANI (SAUDI DELEGATION HEAD), AND AZAMBUJA (BRAZIL)
SEPARATELY MORNING AUGUST 17.

2. MIDDLE EAST: IBRAHIM CONFIRMED RUMOR THAT SOME MEMBERS OF
ARAB GROUP WERE DISCONTENT WITH GROUP LANGUAGE ON ISRAEL AND WERE
PURSUING QUESTION OF EXCLUSION/EXPULSION. HE FELT THEY WERE
FINDING LITTLE SUPPORT. KABBANI THOUGHT GROUP WAS HOLDING FIRM.
AZAMBUJA REMARKED MOVE FOR EXPULSION AT THIS STAGE OF CONFERENCE
WOULD BE TOTAL SURPRISE.

3. KOREA: ALL CONFIRMED THAT DISCUSSION OF KOREA QUESTION HAD
SEEN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY MODERATES. GROUNDS FOR STRUGGLE
OVER DRAFT LANGUAGE HAD BEEN DRAWN, BUT THEY FELT MECHANISM OF
DRAFTING GROUP WOULD WORK IN FAVOR OF NORTH KOREA. KABBANI
NOTED MODERATES HAD NO COORDINATING MECHANISM AND EACH
EXPOUNDING ITS VIEWS SEPARATELY WITH, HE FEARED, LITTLE
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4. SAHARA: ALL AGREED THIS WAS MOST DIVISIVE ISSUE OF CONFERENCE, WITH FORCES DRAWN UP ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION. IBRAHIM THOUGHT CONFRONTATION SO SEVERE AS MIGHT LEAD BOTH PARTIES TO WITHDRAW FROM FRAY. KABBANI EVIDENCED GRIM DETERMINATION TO PREVENT ANTI-MOROCCAN LANGUAGE FROM BEING ADOPTED BY "CONSENSUS."

5. PUERTO RICO: SUBJECT NEVER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE BUT RATHER HAD IN SOME FASHION BEEN SLID OVER TO DRAFTING GROUP(S). IBRAHIM HAD INSTRUCTED DELEGATION MEMBER TO FIND DRAFTING GROUP AND GET JORDANIAN VIEWS ACROSS. THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO PINPOINT A TIME AND PLACE WHEN PR LANGUAGE WOULD BE WORKED ON. KABBANI SAID MOST COUNTRIES FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE FIRST TO SPEAK AGAINST CUBAN TEXT; ONLY IF LAS BROKE THE ICE COULD OTHERS FOLLOW.

6. LEBANON: IBRAHIM AGREED WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT DUST-UP OVER LEBANON, WHILE UNLIKELY, WAS STILL POSSIBILITY. EGYPT IN PARTICULAR WAS PUSHING A CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, BUT IBRAHIM WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SMALL VICTORY AT NAC OR AIMING TO PURSUE MATTER ELSEWHERE, UNGA IN PARTICULAR.

7. ATMOSPHERICS: IBRAHIM AND AZAMBUJA COINCIDED IN VIEW THAT, WHILE MODERATES FORMED "SILENT MAJORITY" IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF MOVEMENT AND OF NAC IN PARTICULAR WAS TO SERVE AS PLATFORM FOR SPECIAL INTERESTS OF SMALL STATES, NEW REVOLUTIONARY STATES IN PARTICULAR. IBRAHIM APPALLED AT "DRAFTING GROUP" SYSTEM OF REACHING "CONSENSUS" SINCE LARGE DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS INEVITABLY CONTROLLED OUTCOME. AZAMBUJA CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THREE ISSUES OF VITAL CONCERN TO NAM MEMBERS WERE NOT BEING DISCUSSED: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, ENTEBBE/TERRORISM (ALTHOUGH DRAFT RESOLUTION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED), AND LEBANON. REED

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